1: Fitzgerald H-5 (1937-1938) AE3 Sino-Tibetan
Border Peoples AE3



the lake shore as, having recently been reclaimed from the water, are raised too high to be reached by the irrigation channels. Rice is the main crop, the crop to which all other cultivation is subordinated, to grow which the topography of the plain has been laboriously remodelled.

In sharp contrast to the flat fertile western shore of the lake, fringed with willow groves and prosperous villages, the eastern shore rises abruptly from deep water, barren rocky hills rising to about 8,500 feet, or 2,500 above the lake. Not only the geology but also the climate is different on this side of the water. The prevailing Yunnan limestone here reappears, much weathered, and almost denuded of soil and vegetation. Much of the surface of these eastern hills is sharp weather-worn rock, with only small pockets of red clay scattered among the outcrops. The height of Ts'ang Shan to the west precipitates most of the rainfall, so that the region east of the lake is altogether dryer and more barren. Few trees grow on the eastern hills, and cultivation is only possible in the rare valleys running down to the lake. On the other hand the climate of these eastern hills is very suitable for fruit, and where sufficient soil exists there are highly productive orchards growing pears, peaches, and further east, citrus.

Towards the south-east corner of the lake the hills recede leaving the small plain of Feng Yi along the shore of the lake. This plain and the valleys running down from the Ting Hsi Ling range—the Red River-Mekong Divide—is the most southerly Min Chia territory, for east of the Tung Hsi Ling no Min Chia are found in the plain of Mi Tu.[1] The eastern border of the Min Chia country is somewhat

[1] There are in fact a few villages of Min Chia scattered about the Districts of Mi Tu and Hung Ai. These are certainly immigrants from the Ta Li plain, probably settled there since the Mohammedan rebellion of the eighteen-seventies.